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COINS:

TEST, EVALUATION

16 APR 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Security Agency

SUBJECT: COINS Experiment

- REFERENCES:
- (a) Memorandum, USIB-D-39.1/9, 11 April 1968, The Community On-Line Intelligence System (COINS) Experiment
 - (b) NSA Memorandum, [REDACTED] 3 April 1969, COINS Experiment 25X1
 - (c) Memorandum, IHC-D-113/4.15, 3 December 1968, COINS Experiment and Master Plan
 - (d) NSA Memorandum [REDACTED] 5 December 1968, COINS Master Plan 25X1
 - (e) DCI Memorandum, 24 December 1968, COINS Master Plan
 - (f) DCI Memorandum, 31 May 1968, Management of the COINS Experiment

1. The Director of Central Intelligence, in accordance with assignment of responsibility in his memo of 11 April 1968, reference (a), has asked me to communicate with you on a number of COINS related subjects.

2. The first subject is your memo, reference (b), proposing an additional six months' delay in beginning the formal test and analysis phase of the COINS Experiment. The proposed delay is approved. The Director understands that during the testing of such a complex network, systems deficiencies will be identified, and that correcting these deficiencies may require delaying a schedule. He is disappointed, nonetheless, due to the slowness in the accomplishment of the COINS Experiment.

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Priority should be given to the completion of this Experiment. All efforts on a COINS follow-on system should be secondary to the conduct of the COINS Experiment. The difficulties with the Experiment creates concern for the efficacy of follow-on systems which may be developed in a manner similar to COINS.

3. During this period of system modification and operational test, it is desirable to continue the type of network tests which have uncovered system shortcomings contributing to the proposed six months' delay. It is desired that test and analysis data^{should} be collected during this period in preparation for the formal test and analysis phase. It is desired that you take the action necessary as you indicated in your letter, reference (b), to assure that the COINS network is operating in a satisfactory manner so that the formal test and analysis phase may start not later than 1 October 1969. Emphasis should also be placed on furthering the efforts of the various working panels. It seems particularly important to inform, indoctrinate, train, and assist the user/analyst since the success of COINS is largely dependent on the degree to which the analyst uses the system and finds it satisfactory.

4. The Intelligence Information Handling Committee was tasked in reference (c) to produce a plan and schedule for the evaluation of COINS. The new schedule for the formal test and analysis phase, i.e., 1 October 1969 through 31 March 1960, means that the findings of the Test and Analysis Panel will not be available until 1 June.

The evaluation of COINS can then begin. Its duration is unknown at this time since the details of the evaluation schedule have not been

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5. The lack of an approved set of objectives for the COINS Experiment is preventing the development of an evaluation plan. In your memo of 5 December 1968, reference (d), you noted efforts were underway to resolve differences pertaining to COINS objectives. The success you have experienced in this regard is of interest since the set of objectives set forth in the COINS Master Plan appear dependent to some extent on projects and activities beyond the period of the COINS Experiment. The objectives should be realizable, demonstrable, and measurable within the revised time frame of the present Experiment. It is requested that the total set of objectives be forwarded to the DCI for his approval as indicated in reference (e).

6. Your request for the members of the Community to identify additional files for COINS has been brought to the attention of the IHC. The identification or creation of additional COINS files for the period of the Experiment is probably not feasible. However, members of the IHC appreciate your concern. Changes to COINS files may be made in accordance with the reference ^(f)(d). Identifying files for follow-on system continues to be a topic for discussion in the IHC. You will be kept informed of their conclusions and recommendations.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:


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